

DESIGN
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*Designer brings out the French countryside
on Georgian Bay*

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GEORGIAN BAY MIGHT SEEM AN UNLIKELY SETTING for a French country cottage. But it's here that Lori Morris, working with builder Lloyd LeBoeuf, created a perfect miniature of one.

In this case, the home is a single-storey 3,062-square-foot bungalow surrounded by tranquil waters and sandy beach. Morris's challenge was striking the balance between the rustic beauty of this secluded section of Georgian Bay and decorating for a cottage that evokes a French country feeling.

"We wanted something that was very eclectic in design and finishes," says the designer from her office on Dupont St. in Toronto. "We were looking for a mixture of textures to create a sense of personality and sense of architectural style. We used stone archways, custom wood panelled doors, and paint-grade panelled doors to give another layer of interest. The cottage doesn't have any crown mouldings, so we wanted to create that feeling." 🏡





*Oviti ulloris mil eturistem utaspis dipicim olorpor
soluptas plandam, que quam faci dis maximen isincta
doluptu rescium volorerum quibus alis ditem tempore,
coresti alis*

*“The room is very
sumptuous and relaxing
at the same time.”*

For Morris, it was important to capture the beauty of the natural vistas surrounding the property, as well as to evoke a warmth in the interior and create a sophisticated feeling throughout. Her design combines diverse textures, architectural styles, and a soft colour palette, all accentuated by antique and modern pieces.

The designer was involved with the two-year project from the beginning and worked closely with the homeowners, who had a definite vision for their new cottage as well as ideas for finishes, textures and colours. Those colours include sea-foam green, soft wheat, and creams, and they’re enhanced by wood and bronze accents.

“The owners said they wanted to feel like they were in the countryside of France,” said Morris, but the finished product must not be “a French-country generic style, but more European.” As a result, every room is an eclectic gem with an eye to detail. 📖



*Riam doluptati que in nis etur? Quis et fugiatu scitatur?
Lorrum fuga. Rorecus cimende moloratur re erum rest
odis atur accus et iustiis id et et recatum si ditas cus
conemquae susaest im reptatur aces volupta tibus.
Ecesciet quam.*

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The master bathroom is a case in point. The custom-designed, carved wooden entry door creates a sense of originality and elegance, while solid wooden beams across the ceiling capture the rustic nature of Georgian Bay. The vanity has a marble slab top and antique bronze legs, and stands across from a clawfoot tub. A 1940s Murano-glass chandelier casts romantic lighting on the room.

A space to put on makeup carries on the theme: “To create the personality we wanted, we coupled an antique wrought-iron black bistro table with a custom-painted bergère chair [in] a sea-foam green linen fabric [in an] abstract floral design,” says Morris.

Stone archways in the anteroom between the dining room and lounge lend a rustic touch. It took seven layers of paint to achieve the right tone and texture for the walls, she says. Of particular interest in this area is the 1920s North American cast-metal pendant light fixture. Two architectural wood-panelled lamps grace the 19th-century French walnut buffet, topped by an oil painting of a pianist in colours that make full use of the French country palette. 🍷



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The symbiosis of rustic and French elegance is on full display in the lounge, between the master bedroom and the dining room. “This is the premier spot of the cottage,” says the designer. “It’s the sitting area for reading, having quiet time, drinking your morning coffee surrounded by views of Georgian Bay. The fixtures were all hand-picked individual pieces of art to create interest in the space. The room is framed by two stone archways, which also created a theme throughout the house, and the beautiful muted area carpets add to the uniquely designed, textured fabrics.”

The cathedral ceiling in the dining room exudes atmosphere. Again, stone archways frame the space, which features antique bronze lighting, a custom-made wooden table and heavily designed fabric chairs to add personality. Morris included a Moorcroft lamp that matches the upholstery in the room, enhanced by an antique painted trumeau mirror on top of a carved console with marble top.

For the family room, the designer added a real conversation piece: a stylized wooden chandelier hanging from the beams framing the cathedral ceiling and limestone fireplace. The coffee table is a re-imagined antique wood dining table, with plank top cut down to size.

The master bedroom reflects the tranquility of the country. The custom-designed headboard, Bella Notte bedding, and heavily painted antique two-drawer chest with marble top all feel soft and delicate, while a fur throw on a settee and Wedgwood jasperware bowl create interest and perhaps a touch of whimsy. “The room is very sumptuous and relaxing at the same time,” says Morris.

Just as in the rest of the cottage, the owners wanted a unique look when it came to their kitchen. Unlike other contemporary kitchens, awash in stainless steel and granite, this one says elegant country. From the zinc stove hood and backsplash to the custom-painted bar stools and cherrywood cabinetry, the kitchen feels warm, inviting, and – most important – French. ☛

*Non repero ent prem rem earciet
velit a dis aligend aerspererum
fugiae sit utesequi nobisci tatque*

